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FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2088  
INFO RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY 1914  
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY 0615  
RUEHOO/CHINA POSTS COLLECTIVE  
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 0173  
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 0194  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 2807  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 3719  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIJING 006348

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/05/2016

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [KPAL](#) [IS](#) [CH](#)

SUBJECT: CORRECTED COPY: PRC/HAMAS: EMBASSY CAUTIONS PRC ON  
REPORTS HAMAS OFFICIAL INVITED TO CHINA

REF: OSC GMP20060404541007

Classified By: Political External Unit Chief Edgard Kagan. Reasons 1.4  
(b/d).

CORRECTION: Paragraph 3 inaccurately identified the PRC  
Ambassador in Tel Aviv as the Israeli Ambassador.

[11](#). (C) The DCM expressed U.S. concern about media reports  
(reftel) that the PRC invited Palestinian Government Foreign  
Minister Mahmoud Al-Zahhar to visit China (ref) to MFA Acting  
Director General for North American Affairs Xie Feng on April  
[15](#). Noting that such an invitation could call into question  
PRC commitments on opposing terrorism, the DCM asked for  
clarification and cautioned against such a visit. Xie said  
he could not confirm the report.

[12](#). (C) Poloff made similar points to MFA North American  
Department Deputy Director for U.S. Affairs Ren Faqiang later  
on April 5. Ren also said he could not confirm the reports  
but stated that the PRC recognized the need to clarify its  
position and understood the U.S. position. Poloff  
subsequently spoke with a Mr. Zou from the West Asia and  
North Africa Department's Israel and Palestine Division, who  
said that he could not confirm the report. Responding to  
Poloff's expression of concern by saying that he had seen a  
report of the DCM's conversation with Xie Feng, Zou (who  
refused to further identify himself) said that the United  
States should not place too much credence on a press report  
because "the media are sometimes wrong." Pushed on the  
possibility that official news agency Xinhua had also carried  
the report, Zou repeated the same line and suggested calling  
back during regular work hours on April 6 for further  
clarification.

[13](#). (C) Israeli Embassy DCM Eyal Propper told Poloff April 5  
that the Israeli MFA had called the PRC Ambassador in Tel  
Aviv to protest reports that PRC Representative in Ramallah  
Yang Weiguo had met April 4 with Al-Mazzar and had invited  
him to visit China in May. Propper said that the PRC  
Ambassador said that he could not confirm the reports.  
Israeli Ambassador in Beijing Yehuda Haim was instructed to  
protest to FM Li, according to Propper, who noted that Li is  
out of the country and that the Israelis were trying for VFM  
Lu Guozeng, who supervises Middle East issues. He later told  
us that the Israelis did not get a meeting on April 5 but  
that they had heard that the PRC will announce April 6 at the  
MFA's regular press conference that Al-Mazzar will not visit  
China. Propper noted that even if true, the Israelis will  
still protest the fact that Yang Weiguo met with Al-Mazzar,  
as this was the first official meeting between a HAMAS

official and a representative from a non-Arab country since HAMAS took office. Stressing that Yang Weiguo carries the rank of Ambassador within the PRC MFA, Propper claimed that press reports (including Xinhua) quoted Al-Mazzar as telling his PRC guests that he hopes to one day see a map of the region that does not include Israel.

RANDT